



Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release
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BOARD VOTES TO PROTECT SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE COUNTY RESIDENTS

AODA, 2-1-1 line, children programs all deserve funding

Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee County Board made the preservation of social services one of its top priorities in its 2007 Budget adopted last week.

Supervisors voted unanimously to restore funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a master housing plan for people with mental health issues or other disabilities. Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones chairs the Board's Health and Human Needs Committee. "Dedicating money for behavioral health is critical", Coggs-Jones said. "There are a lot of concerns about mental health in Milwaukee County, so it was timely to fund these programs."

The Board was also united in restoring most of the funding to the Youth Sports Authority. Supervisor Peggy West said it's an important program. "We really need to take preventive steps like this to help children grow up and become productive members of our society, rather than ending up in the juvenile correctional system," West said. The youth program is administered through the Department of Health and Human Services Delinquency and Court Services Division.

Restored funding for AODA prevention services means the Behavioral Health Division can continue efforts to reduce drug, alcohol, and substance abuse in our community. Coggs-Jones said, "It's much less expensive to spend money on prevention than to spend it on intervention and treatment. We're saving tax dollars this way."

The Board also restored funding to the 2-1-1 line. It's an important phone number that helps County residents find non-life threatening emergency services, such as food pantries, housing, drug and alcohol treatment, child care, and help with domestic violence and parenting.

Several Board members also stressed that these important ongoing programs are being restored because they were cut in the County Executive's Recommended Budget. The Board's actions are not adding new dollars to last year's funding levels in these areas.

The County Board will vote on the County Executive's veto of the budget Wednesday, November 15th, 1:30pm, in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.